



The French presidency of the European Union

1st July 2008
/ 31st December 2008

« Education, youth, culture,
competitiveness » Councils.

The French presidency will enable

- the European area for Lifelong Learning to be maintained and developed
- the European Union tools available for actors of the educational system to be more widely known
- support for the themes considered priorities for our ministry but which concern all the member States to be strongly upheld.

The French presidency

- **follows the presidency of a new member State : Slovenia**
- **begins a new 18 month cycle of cooperation with the Czech Republic and Sweden who will follow on from us (TRIO procedure)**

Two ministries involved

- « Education, youth, culture » incorporates the field of school education and higher education, involving both the ministries of national education and of higher education and research.
- The « competitiveness » council (research, industry and internal market) involves the ministry of higher education and research.

1 formal council of ministers

- Possible themes:
- Reinforced European cooperation in education and vocational training
- Proposition to recommend ECVET
- Proposition to recommend quality assurance in education and vocational training
- Conclusion project and action plan on adult education

1 formal council of ministers, cont.

- **Conclusion project:**
- School of XXI century: exchange of best practice in dropout prevention
- Integration of disabled pupils
- Conclusion of council on new program for multilingualism

The ministers' informal meeting

➤ Will be devoted to vocational training (follow-up of the Copenhagen process).

2 objectives:

- 1) to establish an intermediary report of the new instruments: (e.g. the European framework of certification, ECVET)
- 2) to consider future priorities until 2010 and beyond.

These two objectives will form the contents of a statement adopted by the ministers and the social partners.

13 meetings and conferences
for the « Education »
presidency are planned :
6 meetings for ministries
& 7 conferences

➤ 6 meetings for ministries

3 directors' meetings :

- directors for European and International relations
- directors-general for vocational training
- directors-general for higher education.

1 BFUG meeting for the follow-up of the Bologna process

1 Education Committee (to prepare the texts for the Council)

1 informal meeting of Ministers

7 conferences and colloquia

- Initiated by the ministries:
- 2 specifically for school education
- 3 for school and higher education
- 2 specifically for higher education


guidance

- Guidance will be the main theme of our presidency
- Guidance is at the heart of numerous challenges faced by European systems of education
- Guidance can contribute in a major way to rise to the double challenge of the EU, excellency and solidarity
- Guidance has first place in the struggle to reduce the number of school dropouts
- Guidance recognizes skills alongside subjects and knowledge by introducing a system of integration and project policy.

Conference n°1 : « Guidance – managing the transitions (at all levels) »

- Transitions « school / higher education » « education / 1st job » etc
- Themes:
 - **General guidance**
 - **Access to higher education**
 - **Education/industry partnerships**
 - **Vocational education**
 - **Lifelong learning**

Conference n°2 : « School **Governance** »

- Management and governance of schools
 - Role of the head teacher,
 - Quality pupil guidance
 - Flexible teaching methods
 - Sectorisation/ catchment areas
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- A decorative graphic consisting of several sets of concentric circles, resembling ripples in water, located in the bottom right corner of the slide.

Conference n°3 : « Learning Science » school level and higher education

- Experimental approach for science teaching
- Attracting young people to science
- Equal access for boys/girls to these fields
- New ways of knowledge acquisition
- Partnership with the Academy of Science (la main à la pâte)

For info:

- « Rocard » report: « Science / education now » Report, commissioned by the EC and presented recently, recommending certain measures to encourage the teaching of science in primary and secondary schools.
- European expert cluster on this subject.

Conference n°4 : « Social integration and schooling of handicapped pupils »

(school level)

- **Schooling of handicapped pupils:**
- **Best practice exchange, new teaching methods put in place, adapting learning programmes, respecting differences, team work, contacts with families etc**
- **Developing incentives for member countries**
- **Partnership with the ministry of social affairs, the interministerial delegation for the handicapped, non-profit organisations, the French Council for European questions of the Disabled(CFHE) etc**

Conference n°5: indicators (school and higher levels)

« International comparison indicators and performance: practices, validity, strengths and weaknesses».

- status report on the use of indicators and international evaluation in the analysis and national/international decision making. (e.g.: **EU reference indicators, indicators from PISA...**)
- Validity – strengths and weaknesses of different systems of indicators used(Unesco, OCDE, Eurostat)**
- the seminar will attempt to map out possible improvements and development of these systems of indicators and their utilization.**

Higher Education

- Two **core issues** will be the **themes** of conferences specifically concerned with Higher education:
- 6) Quality assurance
- 7) launch of the new
« ERASMUS MUNDUS 2 » programme.

A- Higher Education Conferences

Conference n°1 : Quality assurance (QA) in higher education

- ❖ Main objectives :
- To develop further European cooperation aiming to guarantee standards of quality in higher education: *European Standards and Guidelines and European Register of QA Agencies for Higher education* - adopted in Bergen 2005 and in London 2007.
- To contribute significantly to create a genuine quality culture in higher education and research (examples from Bologna countries < for ex. new FR Evaluation Agency for research and higher education :AERES)
- To encourage Universities and Research centres to get the 'quality reflex' .

A- Higher Education Conferences

Conference n°2 : Launch of ERASMUS MUNDUS II

- Conference for the official launch of the new ERASMUS MUNDUS II programme(2009-2013)
- ❖ What is at stake : mobility Europe/other countries. International partnership degrees (including international joint supervision of thesis)
- ❖ Main objectives :
 - To raise awareness on this new programme among decision - makers and higher education institutions.
 - To encourage new projects and to strengthen up the position of training and research units in international partnerships.
 - To explore current issues and debates on joint diplomas (e.g. : quality assessment)

II – Competitiveness Council : internal market, industry and research

Planned:

- 1 informal council on competitiveness**
- 1 meeting of the European Scientific
and Technical Research Committee (CREST)**
- 3 compulsory interministerial conferences**
- 6 conferences at the ministry's initiative.**

Le domaine spatial

Le domaine spatial sera un thème fort de la présidence « recherche »

Une manifestation spécifique sera consacrée à ce secteur (réunion à KOUROU)



Informal meeting of the ministers

This meeting is usually dedicated to exchanges on the themes linked to the European research and innovation area. In 2008, the assessment of the 6th Programme the « mid-term » of the 7th PCRDT will be under discussion.

Research Conferences

compulsory conferences

- **1) IST 2008 : conference/salon on information and communication technologies.**
 - **R&D showcase of European activities in the ICST field.**
 - **Framework Programme and DG INFSO**
 - **Public and private R&D**

Research Conferences

compulsory conferences

- **2) SRC 08: European research in the field of security.**
 - **Enhancement of companies and research in the security sector.**

Research conferences

compulsory conferences

- **3) ECRI 08 : major research infrastructures**
 - Meeting every 18 months
 - European Strategy for major facilities(CERN, ITER, XFEL...)
 - Launch of the first ESFRI (European strategy forum of research infrastructures) investments
 - Partnership MESR and Commission

Conferences at the initiative of MESR

A) Relaunch of the European research and innovation area

➤ Conference n°1 : Research and economic development

- « Exchange of ideas » on research:
 - Assessment of the Lisbon strategy and its reorientation
 - Internationalisation of the R&D in companies
 - Evolution toward models of open innovation
 - Assessment of public policies.
- Exchange forum between specialists in research and innovation.

Conferences at the initiative of MESR

A) Relaunch of the European research and innovation area

➤ Conference n°2: Science et society

- Conference to launch the science week « Fête de la Science » Europe special (5-12 October)
- Link with the science learning conference
- Youth/Science/Citizens meeting
- Opportunity for local initiatives and association between schools, higher education institutes and research bodies

Conferences at the initiative of MESR

A) Relaunch of the European research and innovation area.

➤ Conference n°3: Attractivity (careers of researchers)

- Status of researchers in the EER
- Compared approach (work conditions, integration..)
- Mobility in Europe (research professors, researchers)

Conferences at the initiative of the MESR

B) Cooperation in research and innovations

➤ Conference n°1: HSS and global changes

- **Man's safety in the face of change**
- **Institutional dimension of change**
- **Industrial mutation**
- **Changes in agriculture**
- **Earth/Ocean Interaction in coastal zones**
- **Urbanisation and global changes**

Conferences at the initiative of MESR

B) Cooperation in research and innovations

- **Conference n°2: Biodiversity and agriculture**
 - **Productivist Agriculture / agriculture that respects the environment**

Conferences at the initiative of MESR

B) Cooperation in research and innovations

- **Conference n°3 : GMES (global monitoring of
environnement and security)**
 - **European program for the establishment of a
public service for environmental information**
 - **Priority for aid to sustainable development
policies**

